An Essay

on the

Coinciding Tendency of Medicine

Respectfully Submitted

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By

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When the illustrious Hahneman had satisfied himself by numerous experiments both on himself and other individuals of the correctness of the similia similibus principle and had acquired a sufficient knowledge of the effects of a number of medicines he commenced applying that knowledge to the cure of disease on homoeopathic principles.

Here a difficulty met him at the very threshold. He often produced drug diseases or aggravated existing symptoms; although his patients soon recovered from the aggravation of the symptoms, and the drug diseases when established generally eradicated the original diseases for which he had prescribed the medicines, thus confirming his previously discovered guiding law.

His philosophical mind still sought for new and clearer views of the healing art. Having determined from

his own previous experience the rule that medicine, in order to free a patient from disease must be capable of enabling the vital principle in the organism to react against the disease which has either depressed or exalted it and by this method prevents it from performing fully its natural functions.

He also found that if this reaction was too violent, it produced a change in the disease but did not eradicate it from the system

To obviate this source of failure in the curative process he gradually reduced the size of his doses, at the same time, by means of trituration and dilution rendered the particles of which they were made up more minute, By these means his patients were sooner restored to health. These facts led him by degrees to the discovery that diseases can be cured by remedies that will

produce a similar train of symptoms in the healthy, in doses so minute as not to cause a sensible aggravation of the existing disease

Thus he found that infinitely small doses were not only sufficient to cure but often to produce a temporary aggravation of symptoms which was generally followed by a speedy cure,

Medical substances acting on the healthy system give rise to two opposite series of symptoms some of which appear shortly after the substances have been introduced into the stomach or placed in contact with the part on which it is destined prominently to act, whilst others entirely contrary manifest themselves shortly after the disappearance of the former,

For curative purposes the medicine should be given in accordance with the primary train of symptoms and in a dose just sufficient to excite

reaction which will vary in size according to Idiosyncrasy, age, Sex, natural Constitution, acquired Habits, condition of health or disease, during some kinds of which a person can bear much more medicine than in health, in others, embracing a larger class much less.

The causes that may have given rise to the symptoms should be duly considered in prescribing the medicine for any disease, and the idiopathic symptoms carefully distinguished from those that are sympathetic, If this be overlooked, a medicine corresponding by its symptoms, with those of the disease may be given without effecting a cure

If a medicine given to a healthy person calls out a certain those of symptoms, no matter what they may be or how numerous or varied, and a disease invading a patient calls out the same symptoms, it is evident that it can

only do so by invading the same organs systems and nervous centres and in the same way hence homoeopathic medicines act directly on the diseased organs.

From these preliminary considerations we propose to consider the following propositions, and name some arguments and facts by which they are sustained.

1st. That the nearer the symptoms manifested by any disease, correspond with the symptoms produced by any given medicine, administered in suitable doses to a healthy person, the greater is the certainty that the disease will be removed by that medicine and health restored to the patient.

2ond. That the size of the dose must be small, lest it coincide with the disease and thus produce unnecessary aggravation or even fatal results.

3d That having procured the primary action, a sufficient time for reaction

or secondary effect be allowed, lest by too frequent repetition, we cause the medicine to coincide with the disease and thus prolong the patients sufferings,

For evidence to sustain the first proposition we are not restricted to homoeopathic experience alone,

Hahneman diligently explored the archives of medical history for proofs of this kind. His labors successfully terminated, furnish us with the singular disclosures; that very numerous cures had been accomplished in accordance with the similia similibus principle by allopathic medical men who did not dream of any such law of guidance for the administration of medicines

From these sources Hahneman exhibits two hundred and forty illustrations of accidental coincidences of this kind. Similar researches conducted

by others have been equally satisfactory, thus showing that Homoeopathy is as old as creation, Hahneman under the guidence of Providence brought it to attention and the same Providence still guides and blesses its onward progress.

The experience of homoeopathic physicians within the past fifty years furnishes incontrovertible proof of the fact announced in the above propositions.

Their testimony is positive derived from extensive personal observation by a very large number of intelligent men who could have no motive to give a partial testimony, for in many instances the conclusions resulting from candid and careful investigation required a change in their long established habits practice and sentiments and frequently this change has, for a time at least, caused the dissolution of long established friendships and the loss of extensive patronage,

Where this coincidence of the symptoms manifested by the disease bears a close resemblance to or identity with the symptoms found by proving the medicine the cure is effected in a very short time when the medicine is given in appropriate doses and at appropriate times

I will mention in illustration of this statement the striking similarity to be observed in the Asiatic Cholera and the pathogenetic effects of the medicines mostly used by Homoeopathists for its cure with such success that the community are astonished at the results wherever they are known. and that should excite every physician to more diligent study and experiment to find specific remedies for some diseases that now baffle our skill.

I believe that in many cases where we fail to cure, it is in consequence

of not having, or not prescribing the right remedy and in the appropriate dose.

A striking proof of the correctness of the homoeopathic principle is seen in the fact that while the cholera was still at a distance, and Hahneman had never seen a case of it, he pointed out the remedies that would meet the symptoms. and the same remedies have been used by homoeopathists successfully in the treatment of cholera from that period to the present time.

2 ond. We are next to consider that the size of the dose must be small lest it coincide with the disease and thus produce unnecessary aggravation or even fatal results

Homoeopathic medicines act directly on the seat of the disease; the susceptibility of the affected organ is immeasurably increased by the disease hence the necesity of small doses.

To employ homoeopathic medicines in allopathic doses would destroy the patient and such events have undoubtedly taken place, when large doses of quinine or bark have been given at the commencement of an ague chill, or even a moderate allopathic dose of opium administered to a patient during the cold stage of fever has quickly deprived the unfortunate person of life.

Aconite so serviceable to the homoeopathist in fevers or inflammations may in the hands of an allopathist when administered in ten drop doses of the strong tincture be the means of a fatal termination of the disease

An ordinary allopathic dose of Calomel may when given to a person suffering with dysentery cause his death whereas infinitesimal doses of Mercurius sol or vin. or cor. may be sufficient to effect.

a permanent cure in a short time.
Numerous examples of this kind can be mentioned.

It appears truly surprising that such minute doses of medicine will produce such prompt and certain effect as have been observed from substances that in a crude state produce but little effect on the human system.

Nature however furnishes us with many illustrations equally surprising and wonderfull.

The power of attraction that holds the universe in harmonious order extending through unlimited space exerting its power on all bodies from the sun to its most distant planet and even wandering comet causing all to preform their wonderfull revolutions with exact certainty in their appointed time is a a substance so minute that we

only know its existance by its effects although we are under its influence all the time.

Light although coming a distance of eight millions of miles (and some portions of the earth's orbit even more) and moving at the amazing rapidity of more than eleven millions of miles in one minute, still comes to our sight so mildly as to produce only the sensation of pleasure when in health although its bright rays may produce extreme pain to the eye affected with active inflammation; this agent is so minute that we can neither weigh nor measure it, yet it exerts so essential an influence that neither vegetable nor animal life can be sustained without it for any length of time, The atmosphere, electricity and caloric each furnishes illustrations equally plain of the immense power

contained in matter much more highly attenuated than the lightest dose of homoeopathic medicine ever administered by the most ardent high dilutionest

But it is the testimony of the noble band of homoeopathic physicians that we mostly rely on for facts to prove that infinitessimal doses of medicine operate when given on homoeopathic principles. When they, well knowing the certain tendency of specific diseases both when left to nature or under alloeopathic treatment, as for example many forms of scrofulous diseases, see them promptly arrested by homoeopathic treatment and by a persevering and careful administration of antipsoric remedies in highly attenuated doses permanently eradicate the disease from the system, and this occuring in thousands

of instances as we learn from the testimony of men of the most unimpeachable veracity, publishing at the same time the medicine and exact dose, cordially inviting all as did the illustrious Hahneman to do as he had done, not willing to keep as a secret so efficient a means of relieving human suffering and in this light their testimony should be viewed in a far different manner from that of the boasting vender of seret nostrums by which some have enriched themselves in consequence of public credulity got up by boasting advertisements,

In addition to this we can produce the testimony of tens of thousands of patients who have been cured by these small doses of

medicine many of whom had been declared beyond the help of other means and some of whom affection had ceased to hope for and who now cannot be pursuaded to take the drugs they formerly thought so necessary for health

2. We have thus referred to facts rather than theory for the demonstration of our proposition and whenever the witnesses above mentioned shall be personally called for their names and residence shall promptly be given.

3d. That having procured the primary action of the medicine a sufficient time for reaction or secondary effect be allowed, lest by too frequent repetition we cause the medicine to coincide

with the disease and thus prolong the patients suffering,

The physician who has previously given and the patient who has been accustomed to take large and oft repeated doses of medicine may find this the hardest rule to adopt in Homoeopathy but it is equally important with those previously considered

The radical cures in homoeopathic practice being effected by a reaction of nature excited by the medicine, it follows that this reaction must be produced and in all very severe cases of organic lesions especially those which result from the energetic action of some poison, miasm or medicinal substances, the disease appears to have its own peculiar vital power which controls the vital force and prevents the

reaction; Such instances require a constant action of medicine sufficient to triumph over the disease,

Here we can administer repeated doses with the greatest success, provided they are only continued to the necessary point for establishing the victorious reaction of the vital principle.

The same rule applies to those diseases which from their nature maintain a continual focus of irritation in the parts affected, but aside from this a single dose may effect a cure of recent and limited organic lesion or chronic disease

It is important to preserve the patient from any influences that may antidote the medicine but where this is impossible a more frequent repetition may be required,

The physician who observes the
rule to omit the medicine when
improvement sets in and not repeat
it while it continues satisfactorily
may accomplish in a short time
what he who too frequently changes
his remedies may fail to do entirely
in consequence of setting up too many
and varied medicinal influences in
the system at the same time.

In case our medicine has not
produced any effect which may
be inferred when no symptom
peculiar to the medicine can be observed; the state of the disease progressing,
then the medicine if well chosen must
be repeated and perhaps increased in
dose even to the extent of producing
some change. Here the well trained
judgement of the practitioner is the

safest guide, No author or teacher can foretel how much medicine in every case will be required to produce the desired effect; in this case however the physician should be confident that he has selected the appropriate medicine, and when he discovers the effect to be unfavourable, either from a change of the disease or from any other cause, he should change it at once for another corresponding to the symptoms.

Our subject is not exhausted but as we have reached the usual limits of a thesis we will close this essay with the wish to our kind instructors that many successive "Happy New Years" may find them at their post advancing the great and glorious science of homoeopathy,

Lewis Lodge